



SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 6

JUNE 1998

A CHAPTER OF THE MIATA CLUB OF AMERICA

UPCOMING EVENTS



June 6—Saturday

Fun Run to See Experimental Aircraft



June 13—Saturday

First Ladies' Run



June 14—Sunday

Detailing Tech Day



June 20—Saturday

Puerto Nuevo Lobster Lunch Run



June 25—Thursday

Monthly Meeting



June 27—Saturday

Plan for the 4th Potluck



June 28—Sunday

Twin Peaks Fun Run



July 4—Saturday

4th of July Parade
Scripps Ranch



July 16 – 19

SDMC at the Ranch
Moss Motors 50th Anniversary



September 7—Monday

Muscular Dystrophy
Miatas Kick-Off the Drive

From the Editor

America, What A Country!

OK, OK, so I stole the tag line from Yakov Smirnoff, the expatriate-Russian comedian. It does however illustrate my point: I mean, where else could a guy with a bad accent make a living putting down his mother country. They even built a theatre in Branson, Missouri to showcase him twice a day (three times on Saturday) saying things like "Russian men have a saying: 'Women are like buses...' That's it."



My mind has wandered in this obtuse direction while contemplating the upcoming July 4th parade in Scripps Ranch. The theme for the 28th edition of this homespun parade is "America, Land of Opportunity." Some might think that a Japanese-built car has no place in a 4th of July parade, but this theme seems to fit the Miata quite well.

In the nine years that the Miata has been in production, over 450,000 have been built. The majority have been sold in the United States, which should not be surprising since it was conceived here by mostly American enthusiasts. The thrust of the car always seemed to be toward the car culture in America and, more precisely, Southern California car culture.

When the Miata came along, it was the latest personification of a desire for automotive independence. Freedom on the road, top down, wind in the hair motoring that seemed to be killed off in the 1970's by government regulation. The Japanese car industry seemed to grow during this same time, fueled mostly by cars that were the antithesis of the Miata— boring sedans or mildly entertaining hatchbacks that got us from point A to point B and back reliably.

It seems only natural that a maverick of the Japanese car industry, such as Mazda, would build the "anti-Japanese car industry" car. Even though Mazda was used to taking risks, such as the original rotary RX-7, the Miata would not have been possible if the enthusiasts in Irvine had not been involved. The "Founding Fathers" Bob Hall and Mark Jordan, who got the Miata moving along the design path, and the designers and engineers who came later, all worked to make the Miata something different, something special.

When we, as a club, participate in the 4th of July parade with the Model A Fords and the Chevrolet Corvettes, we should not apologize for being there. The Miata is just like those cars, built for the American driver. All three share the goal of mobilizing Americans and allowing them to express their individuality. All three represent significant milestones in the history of the automobile. All three represent the opportunities we have in this country.

Plan to join those of us who live in Scripps Ranch this July 4th as we celebrate again this year. Last year was our first participation in the parade; this year we hope to have

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



a record turn out (especially those blue cars). There is always strength in numbers.

Contact Diane Long, djaws@thegrid.net or myself, NevadaBob@miata.net, if you will participate in the parade. On Saturday June 27, Diane will host a potluck party to plan and make decorations for our Miatas. (See details in Meeting Places column on page 5) Joining in the parade is a fun way to support the club. Last year we won a third place ribbon, this year we hope to do even better!

Take care and HAVE FUN!
—ANTHONY WILDE



SOCALM EVENTS

Socalm Social— San Clemente

Date: Tuesday, June 2

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Sonny's Pizza and Pasta
429 North El Camino Real
San Clemente, CA 92672
(949) 498-2540

Coordinators: Jon Martinez & Judy Powell,
jontronics@aol.com

A great place to meet Socalmers for dinner and camaraderie.

Directions: I-5 North, exit at Avenida Presidio and turn left. Turn right onto El Camino Real, Sonny's is on the right.

Orange County Canyon Run

Date: Sunday, June 7

Time: 10:15 a.m. departure, sharp!

Place: SavOn parking lot, Anaheim Hills

Run Leader: Gene Stanley,
genes69@mail.idt.net

Directions: From Coastal San Diego— I-5 North to the 57 North. Then 91 East. From Inland San Diego— I-15 North, 91 (Riverside) Freeway West to Imperial Highway. Go North on Imperial and turn Right onto La Palma. SavOn is immediately on your left.

Details: A moderate-paced run through Santiago Canyon Road, the best scenic, twisty blacktop in Orange County.

AUTOCROSS AT THE MURPH



The following autocross events are tentatively scheduled to take place in the parking lot of the "Qualcomm Stadium at the Jack Murphy Sports Complex."

Sunday, June 7 cancelled
Sunday, June 21 cancelled
Saturday, July 18 cancelled
Sunday, July 19* race day
Sunday, August 2 race day
Saturday, August 22 race day
Saturday, October 17 race day
Saturday, October 31 race day
Saturday, December 12 practice day
Sunday, December 13 race day

* The possibility exists that the July 19 race day will be cancelled, too.

To confirm autocross information call:

San Diego SCCA Hotlines (619) 441-1333
(800) 360-4454

Web page <http://www.sdr-solo2.com>
Rainer Mueller (760) 439-0067
John Godden (619) 538-6165

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NOTICES

THE SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB is an official chapter of the MIATA CLUB OF AMERICA. We are a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to promote the enjoyment of— and enthusiasm for— the Mazda Miata.

SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB NEWS is the monthly newsletter of the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB. Use of articles or stories by other MCA chapters is hereby granted, provided proper credit is given.

Submissions to the newsletter are welcomed and encouraged. Did you just add a new accessory to your Miata? How about writing a review and submitting it to the newsletter? Where possible, please send your electronic submissions to the newsletter editor, Anthony Wilde. Submissions can also be faxed to the club's dedicated phone line or mailed to the club's post office box. Submission deadline is the 15th of each month. Editor reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Internet: The SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB has established a dedicated World Wide Web Home Page at <http://www.sandiegomiataclub.org>. The club has also established a members-only electronic mail list for those members with E-mail capability.

Dedicated 24-hour voice/fax phone line:

(619) 670-7948

SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB
P.O. Box 2286
Spring Valley, CA 91979-2286

Socalm Social— Fullerton

Date: Thursday, June 11

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Mandarin Pavillion

Coordinators: John & Gerry Conn,
connjb@earthlink.net

Southwestern Tour

Date: June 14–22

Coordinator: Bill Bryant, (909) 595-1974

Socalm General Meeting

Date: Saturday, June 27

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Place: Thousand Oaks Mazda

4th Annual—

Three Miata Club Tech Day

Date: Saturday, August 1

Time: 10:00 a.m. until after dark!

Place: Conn's Home in Fullerton

Coordinators: John & Gerry Conn,
connjb@earthlink.net

John and Gerry are members of VROOM, Socalm, and SDMC. Once again they are hosting a huge tech day and pool party. More info next month.

Socalm contacts:

President— K. Zack Broadbent,
(714) 525-9065, racerzack@aol.com
Club E-mail list: socalm@avatar.com



Meeting Places

Run to See Experimental Aircraft

Date: Saturday, June 6

Time: 9:00 a.m.—leave promptly at 9:30

Place: Parking lot by Oscar's in Mission Valley, off Stadium Way and I-8

Run Leader: Richard Scherschel, miatazeke@aol.com

Lois and Dave Martin have invited the club to Brown Airfield to look at experimental aircraft and have lunch. Chapter 14 of the Experimental Aircraft Association is the world's largest chapter—kind of where the SDMC is heading. 50–60 of their members meet every weekend for lunch, and have kindly invited our club. Dave and Lois will be tied up preparing lunch. Therefore I, Richard Scherschel, "volunteered" to be the run leader. (How else am I ever going to get a set of those beautiful new club magnets?)

We will take a leisurely run over some nice twisty roads through the east county, arriving at Brown Field east of the Otay Border crossing around 11:00. Dave will then give us a ½ hour tour of the facility, including the aircraft and their unique hexagonal hangar designed and built by their club members. Come join us in this unique way to meet members of another club who are as dedicated to their sport as we, while driving some twisty roads in the process!

✳ **Important:** RSVP for lunch by Tuesday, June 2nd. Cost is a staggering \$2.50 (including a soft drink). E-mail your RSVP to Richard (above).

First Ladies Run

Date: Saturday, June 13

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: McDonald's parking lot, I-805 at the Sorrento Valley/Mira Mesa Blvd. off-ramp (just northeast of the ramp)

Run Leader: Michelle Langmaid, ed1@cari.net

Get to know your Miata with a casual drive up the coast to Dana Point. Experience fine dining at Cannons (\$15–20) with a breathtaking view of the Dana Point Harbor looking down the Southern California coast to San Clemente and beyond. Cuisine consists of fresh fish, salads, chicken, steaks, and pasta. We will stop and visit some boutiques and galleries in Laguna Beach (bring quarters for the parking meters). The next stop will be Laguna Hills Mall for *Deadly Desserts* (about \$3.50) before winding our way home. This will be a slow run with only a few twisty roads.

✳ *Please RSVP* to Michelle to assist with final planning; however, you will still be welcome even if you forget. Also please let her know if you would like to come but need a ride. We would love to have you with or without a Miata to drive. Men are welcome too!

Detailing Tech Day

Date: Sunday, June 14

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Place: Barb and Elliot Shev's home, 14425 Trailwind Road, Poway

Directions: I-15, Rancho Bernardo exit EAST. Continue for about 5 miles. The first street on your left after Lake Poway Road (signal light) is Trailwind Road.

Tech Leader: Elliot Shev, cranial@aol.com

Car care techniques demonstration: cleaning, polishing, and protecting, as well as how to correctly fill a rock ding. The worst looking Miata will get a free polish and wax job! After the demo, we'll detail our cars and swap tips.

Also Elliot will help install CB radios and match members' antennas to their radios for maximum performance! Please bring:

- Your own detailing compounds. Lots of soft cotton terrycloth (double rinse all terrys)—if you bring a buffer, include a very long extension cord.
- A pre-washed car
- A picnic lunch
- Optional: Swimsuits and Towels

Puerto Nuevo, Baja California Lobster Lunch Run

Date: Saturday, June 20

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Auto museum parking lot, Balboa Park (access: Presidents Way—West of Park Blvd.)

Run Leader: Jack Monaco, (619) 239-2699, monaco@home.com

Since this run will be out of the country, (read as outside the Continental United States) you should check with your insurance company as to the extent of your coverage. We will make a rest stop at San Ysidro prior to crossing the border, to afford you an opportunity to purchase Mexican Insurance. You will also be required to sign a waiver of liability to SDMC.

After crossing the border at Tijuana, we'll take the Rosarito-Ensenada Toll road (Mexico 1) into Rosarito Beach,

UPCOMING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

June 13–14, 1998

Bear Valley Run

Bay Area Miata Club weekend fun run

Contact Fern Buchanan, (408) 338-2507
jbucha9435@aol.com

July 16–19, 1998

Moss Motors 50th Anniversary Festival

Flag Is Up Farms, Santa Ynez Valley, CA
Free, if you arrive in a Miata or a British sports car! (800) 472-9445

Rallyes, Funkhana, Hayrides, Jackson Racing's DynoJet, Bar-B-Q, Karaoke night, lots of shopping and prizes

July 18–19, 1998

Cool Weekend on the Coast

Redwood Coast Miata Club, Eureka, CA

Two-day Autocross held in conjunction with the Redwood Coast Sportscar Club and/or a fun run on the 18th, Poker Rallye on the 19th. Dinner and awards.

Registration—\$30 per car, Autocross—\$10 per driver, per day, novice; \$15 per person, per day, experienced autocrossers. Poker Rallye—\$5 per player.

Contact: Austin, calife@reninet.com or (707)-826-9006 for a registration packet

July 31–August 2, 1998

Deals Gap '98

Smoky Mountains, TN–NC

Run the gauntlet of Deals Gap twisties—318 turns in 11 miles. No registration, more information: www.dickson.net/doc/dealsgap/gap98.shtml

August 14–16, 1998

25th Annual Monterey Historic Races

Laguna Seca Raceway, Monterey, CA

(800) 327-7322

<http://miata.net/calendar.html>

September 18–20, 1998

"Rock Around the Clock"

SAMOA's 9th Annual Gold Rush

Sheraton Hotel, Rancho Cordova, CA
Driving events, speakers, dinners, fun!
(916) 646-4435 or mcmxv@pacbell.net
Web site: www.mindsync.com/hugoandnoelle/gr_index.htm

November 13–15, 1998

Coronado Classic Speed Festival

San Diego Miata Club is planning events to enhance this historic race weekend.

May 6–9, 1999 (tentative date)

Miata 10th Anniversary Celebration

Lone Star Miata Club (Dallas/Ft. Worth)

The MCA sanctioned event for '99



Miatas in the Mist

May 2, 1998

When four Miatas pulled into the Oceanside meeting place at 6:30 a.m. the sky was cloudy, but not alarming. SDMC optimists PHIL DAOUST, VOODOO BOB and VICKY KRUEGER, LEN GARTH and navigator CAROL DI BELLO, and STEF and TOM GOULD were on our way to join Mike Simmon's Wildflower2 Socalm rerun in the Santa Monica Mountains. We toured up I-5, took the Toll Road to Long Beach to the 405 in good order until showers started, followed by crunching OTM fenders and snarled traffic. Those of us (50%) with tops down threaded through, dodging raindrops. A brief sighting of KATHIE and LYNN MCCLELLAND also heading north, but we lost them continuing up the 405. At Phil's suggestion, we went west on the Santa Monica Freeway and up the Coast Highway to Topanga Canyon, thence to the meeting place in Calabasas, a route that avoids a lot of the dreaded LA slog (take note for the

future—the Ranch and Monterey).

Breakfast over, the group of about 18 drivers and their passengers met with Mike and received his thoughtful detailed run instructions, complete with botanical notes. Topanga had been a revelation for us southerners—wow, neat road—and the run to follow was a literal eye-opener. We think we have some great roads, and we do, but at least on this day the roads were great and the OTM traffic a lot less than San Diego County. The scenery was equal parts churned-up-don't-forget-it's-earthquake-country and lush greenery. Wildflowers bloomed in profusion, with specialized varieties colonizing the burn areas. Native son Phil said he'd never seen it so colorful.

The only kink in the program was the low clouds that shrouded the crests of the mountains—visibility would drop to zero and rain would patter down as we climbed up the canyons splitting off of Mulholland Drive. Down the canyons and the air would clear, sometimes with clear sky patches as we rolled down to

PCH for a stretch to get to another canyon going up with twists to the mists. Keeping moving, some of us carried on dodging showers with tops down.

A stop at the Paramount Ranch to briefly check out the sets for *Quinn, Medicine Woman*, and a swing by movie-perfect Malibou Lake were highlights before stopping for barbecue at the Canyon Grill where Mike's wife Sherry joined us.

We ran a few more canyons, then a pit stop at Neptune's Net restaurant at the foot of Sycamore Canyon (waterfall, yeah!). At this point the next loop of 40 miles or so would end up on 101 above LA, and the SD crew decided we would retrace PCH to head home and avoid the Valley traffic. Len and his passenger were lured away by the seafood, so three cars broke for home. A splendid run, indeed—less rain, we understand, than Wildflower1— but when nature smiles upon the flowers, we have to put up with some drips.

—TOM GOULD

Highway Signs Point To the Past *San Diego Union Tribune—May 15, 1998*

Oceanside gloried in its history yesterday afternoon. The movable feast at Mission Avenue and Coast Highway unveiled the sign that someday may, God and Henry Ford willing, mark old Highway 101 from the Mexican to the Canadian borders. In a matter of days, these big beige beauties (with the old black-and-white shield inset) will hit you smack in the eye as you motor through downtown Oceanside.

The city also took advantage of National Preservation Week to dedicate an authentic El Camino Real bell at the intersection. A statewide effort is under way to restore these nostalgic landmarks from Sonoma all the way to the tip of Baja California.

Appropriately, colorful cars fanned around the dignitaries yesterday, a sort of chrome chorus line: a vintage Oceanside police black-and-white (a '41 Plymouth), Model A coupes, gleaming hot rods and a bright rainbow of Miatas.

When the PA system failed, Mayor Dick Lyon and other dignitaries

addressed the sun-bathed crowd from a police cruiser's microphone. If there were a soundtrack, it would have been the Beach Boys. Or even better, the early-'50s pop song that repeats this unforgettable line: "He drove a hopped-up cycle that took off like a gun./That fool was the terror of Highway 101."

Good vibrations aside, historic 101 signs and the graceful bells are mere roadside trinkets, curios for buffs, unless they seize the collective imagination. It took a certain promotional magic for Route 66 to spawn five overseas clubs in addition to numerous domestic organizations. The great vehicular western migration during the Depression (and later) evokes free-verse poetry with cheesy diners and wind-blown gas stations and Burma-Shave signs figuring in the open-road imagery. To husband the same passion about El Camino Real and Highway 101, the region must look carefully and value what it sees.

The bells, which date back to 1902, are the links between the 21 missions, the first model homes of California.

Every fourth-grader in California's schools learns this. The bells, once they're in place, should help us to never forget.

As for Highway 101, the importance is its role in the rich and gaudy—and dangerous—California car culture that came to life on this luminescent stretch of asphalt, formally designated as Highway 101 in 1925.

The old 101 diners. Quonset huts in Solana Beach. Neiman's in Carlsbad. The Del Mar Racetrack. The nostalgic imagery is still there — if eyes are peeled and minds sharpened.

But the danger is that the old roads movement will be limited to a cabal of old-timers pining for their top-down youth. Yesterday, I had breakfast with a middle-aged lawyer who arrived here in 1973. The bells don't toll for him, his blank look said. Highway 101, the coast's beach-blonde drag queen, means nothing to him, he confessed.

The goal is to open his eyes, wide.

—LOGAN JENKINS

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then continue along the Old Road to the village of Puerto Nuevo. Jack reminisces that on his first trip to Puerto Nuevo over twenty years ago, it was a sleepy fishing village perched above the Pacific, with two small family-run restaurants where the señoritas dropped live lobsters into cauldrons of boiling lard. Times have changed— last year over 840,000 lobsters were deep fried. Nothing hits the spot after a top-down jaunt, like an ice-cold Pacifico Cerveza and a steaming hot lobster taco slathered in hot sauce and fresh lime! You can expect to pay \$16.00 for a medium lobster. (For more information: sandiego.sidewalk.com/link/17083)

After a long relaxing lunch, stroll the village. At this point you will have the option of heading north, shopping in Rosarito Beach and crossing back into the US before dark, or you can follow Jack south to Ensenada. If you plan on making the trip to Ensenada, SDMC suggests you make reservations in advance to insure a place to stay. The San Nicolas (phone 011-52-6176-1901) is a clean and modern motel with a nice pool and plenty of parking (or search the net for other Ensenada motels).

Monthly Meeting

Date: Thursday, June 25

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Boll Weevil

9330 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.
(At Ruffin Rd.), San Diego
(619) 571-6225

This event is the single best way to meet your fellow club members, ask questions, share stories, etc. Don't miss the fun!

Pre-Parade Planning Party and Potluck

Date: Saturday, June 27

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: Scripps Ranch

Coordinator: Diane Long,
djaws@thegrid.net

Get together to prepare decorations and plan our assault on the Scripps Ranch July 4th parade. Bring ideas, decorations (no bubbles this time), scissors and a dish to share at the potluck.

Twin Peaks Fun Run

Date: Sunday, June 28

Time: 9:30 a.m., leave at 10:00 a.m. sharp

Place: North County Fair parking lot under the large sign near the I-15 (Via Rancho Parkway exit).

Run Leaders: Jean Terio and John Neumann, jterio@ucsd.edu

We have planned a day full of twisting, curving, climbing roads from the peaks of Palomar to Laguna's lofty lookouts.

We begin our journey in Escondido with a run through town toward the base of Mt. Palomar; then the fun begins as we climb 20 miles to the Palomar Observatory. Once we reach the top we will take a quick break to see the Hale telescope and enjoy the view from 5550 feet. Then we will head down the mountain and around Lake Henshaw.

We will drive through Julian to give the tourists an eyeful of our great club and begin the second ascension to the top of Laguna, which is over 6000 feet! Just after we reach the top we will stop for a late lunch at the Pine Valley Community Park. Plan to picnic or stop at the famous Frosty Burger across the street.

After lunch you can hop down to I-8 for a quick drive home, or continue on through the second half of the journey and yet another curvy strip we have mapped out back up to Escondido. Don't forget your sunscreen and your sweatshirts—it gets cold at those altitudes! Also make sure you have a full tank of gas for this run. This guarantees to be an exciting journey through the Southern California forests!

4th of July Parade

Date: Saturday, July 4

Time: 8 a.m.— DON'T BE LATE!

Place: Scripps Ranch

Coordinator: Diane Long,
djaws@thegrid.net

This is our second year participating in the annual Scripps Ranch Parade—it's fun and crazy with baby carriages, lawnmower drill teams, etc. ending with a community picnic at Hoyt Park. Prizes will be awarded at the park, every Miata will receive a ribbon! Bring along your own picnic or take advantage of the food stands at the park for lunch.

El Camino Real Bell On Historic 101

May 14, 1998

101

Cafe in Oceanside was the place where eight Miata enthusiasts gathered for lunch before

taking part in the City of Oceanside's dedication of the Coast Highway as part of Historic Route US 101.

You've probably heard about the Historic Route US 66. We had a part in a new movement working on the same for Highway 101, which runs from the Canadian border near Seattle all the way to the Mexican border south of San Diego.

Part of Highway 101 covered or paralleled the royal road, better known as El Camino Real. The route was once delineated with road marker bells, and one of these original bells was rededicated at the corner of Mission Avenue and Coast Highway. The festivities featured a bevy of politicians, dignitaries, historians, chamber of commerce types, road worshippers, reporters, antique cars and trucks—and Miatas.

We were invited to bring our Miatas (whose number had grown from eight to eleven) onto the grass of the park to serve as a colorful background (along with some interesting antiques, a 1941 police car, and rods) for the event. After the rededication we joined a parade as it circled South down 101, West to the ocean, and back to the park...with no stops for lights or signs; police waved us right on through, and held traffic. Pretty cool, indeed, for the few of us who could take part in the mid-week, mid-day celebration in Oceanside for the "Historic Route 101."

All this fun—and we were rewarded with Coca-Cola in old-style glass bottles, chocolate chip cookies and Highway 101 T-shirts!

El Niño was good to us. Rainer turned the celebration into an impromptu run through the green North County backroads! Sure made my day to drive...ahem..."quickly" over and around the twisties. Little Gopher Canyon is right up there on my E-ticket list.

Sure was nice playing hooky! Thanks again for the fun day, Rainer!

—FRANK SHINE



The Old Rusty Trucks & Other Oddities Fun Run



PHOTO: RAINER MUELLER

May 9, 1998

Our biggest THANKS go out to the 36 hardy people in the 25 cars that braved the threatening weather to go on this, our first Fun Run for the SDMC! We had planned this run for weeks, and fretted about not only the weather, but also the possible closing of Highway 94 for the "threatening-to-fall-anytime" boulder problem. As it happened, Caltrans was out there with a "cherry-picker" and a flagman when we went by, shoring the rocks up some more! This was complicated even more by the fact that the Motor Transport Museum is only open the 2nd Saturday of each month, and the Club's rapidly-filling calendar of events didn't offer much chance of rescheduling this run!

However, I had a really good experience doing this Fun Run despite the less than top-down weather, and the group really seemed to have a great time.

MY SPECIAL THANKS TO: ART HAMILTON and PHIL DAOUST for convincing me that I really needed a CB to lead the run (it came in VERY handy to round up the strays!), Art for loaning me the CB and antenna, Art again for rounding up the SOCALM crew at the starting point (I goofed on the directions— DOH!), the four SOCALM member cars (and people!) for driving all the way down here, MARINER's able crew (SCOTT and



PHOTO: SAL CAUSARANO

JOANNA LANGHOFF) for installing & testing the CB, and relaying messages back and forth (as I couldn't always hear the others; MARINER has "bigger ears," said Scott), STEF GOULD for making sure everyone who came along was checked in on the list of names, both RAINER MUELLER and ZACK BROADBENT for making this a "Double-Club-Presidential" run, BRAD BROWN (the San Diego one) for the great pictures on his website, the other Brad Brown (the SOCALM one) for coming along and thereby confusing and amusing the whole group, GARY (GERHARD) RÖÖSLI from Switzerland for making this an international group, KATHIE and LYNN MCCLELLAND for their usual generous praise and smiles, JEAN TERIO & JOHN NEUMANN— whose enthusiasm and sheer delight at the clues and the places we visited assured this nervous first-time run leader that I had made some good choices.

Others in attendance were KEN BARTON, TONY and MARY BEECHER, RON BOLLES, SAL and GERI CAUSARANO, TOM GOULD, ROBERT "JT BOB" HOLLAND,

ED and MICHELLE LANGMAID (who took some great photos along the way!), DIANE LONG, the ever-pleasant JON MARTINEZ and JUDY POWELL (who come to nearly every SDMC function from their home in San Clemente!), our able E-mail Postmistress CINDY PALOMA, RANDY and SUSAN RHODES, DR. DAVID SHAPIRO, ELLIOT SHEV (who helped "round up the dogies" riding sweep with Phil), and TOM THOMPSON. (My apologies if I left anyone off this list!)

Also along for the ride was our friend Dr. Phill Rector and his son Robbie, who are not yet members, but *swear* they're going to join real soon! (For the record, Phill bought his '93 Black & Tan new, introduced me to the joys of Miatadom, loaned us many issues of *Miata Magazine* when we were shopping for our used '94, and even told me about this club. Now, don't you think it's *way* past time he joined us officially??) ...and everyone else who came along and had fun!

In addition to the Rusty Trucks (and finding out more than we ever needed to



PHOTO: ED LANGMAID





PHOTO: ED LANGMAID



PHOTO: ED LANGMAID

know about Feldspar— just ask anyone who went...), we had fun figuring out the various "clues" that were sprinkled liberally (and sometimes too close together—oops!) throughout the run directions. We traversed the county's southernmost through route, from the shores of San Diego Bay to the Imperial County line and beyond! We saw Border Patrols galore, the border crossing at Tecate, Barrett Cafe (cholesterol capital of the world!), Lake Morena County Park (our picnic stop; lucky for us the rain had stopped), "oddities" beyond anyone's belief, and the delicious Wisteria Candy Cottage (just ask Rainer about the delectable sights there!)— run by the third generation of candy makers. We ended the official part of the run at the Desert View Tower, a historical landmark rest stop, antique store, and kitsch folk art "caves" with carved and painted animals. It was sunny (finally!) and windy at the end of our run, as we went over the answers to the clues and groaned at several!

I meant to announce at the end of the run the reason for Steve's absence. His



PHOTO: ED LANGMAID

98-year-old grandmother passed away early that morning, and we got the news just as we were leaving the house. She lived independently for all of her 98 years, and went after a brief illness, with Steve's parents attending to her at their ranch very near the Tecate border crossing we visited during the run. He sends along thanks to the people who were

kind enough to send messages and cards of condolence to him.

We thank those who braved the elements this time. We look forward to seeing many more of you during much better weather at our Annual Pool Party and Potluck at our home the afternoon of Sunday August 23rd!

—FRANK SHINE (& STEPHEN DELONGE)



PHOTO: SAL CAUSARANO



PHOTO: BRAD BROWN





Member Profile

LAURIE AND STEVE WAID

Joining this club was not my idea! Steve and I first drove a Miata in Phoenix on a getaway weekend in 1990. But we squelched the love at first drive because of kids still in college and practical thoughts, and went on driving our normal grocery getter and grandma transport vehicle. Finally, a couple of summers ago, on a hot night in Escondido (at Cush) we took the leap and have been on the road ever since (well, almost).

Having had my fill of groups and committees (from Little League to PTA and everything in between!) I resisted the idea of joining a car club. We had been in another car club and I didn't fit the profile. We like to drive, not look, at the cars. However, when I first hit the internet and found all the fun stuff attached to SDMC, I couldn't wait to join. I wanted those toys! Mark called us within 3 hours of receiving our internet application. His infectious enthusiasm made us feel wanted and welcome, so we eagerly awaited our first meeting.

The rest is history. The overwhelming friendliness of the group hooked me immediately. Steve is still shaking his head in surprise. We had made the decision to make this a "couples" thing for us—now I go even if he can't. After 31 years of marriage we love being together, but we like being together even more in our Miata!

A little family background: Steve and I both grew up in Arcadia, California. Steve graduated from Cal Poly Pomona and I got my MRS degree after 2 years at Whittier College. We have two grown kids, a son-in-law and 2 granddoggies

(Rottweilers) that all live within 20 minutes of our Rancho Penasquitos home. We see them often, but they like the fact that Mom and Dad have a life too, and schedule visits around Miata Club events. Steve is an accountant, Director of Finance for California Furniture Collection in Sorrento Valley. The Miata is his daily transport—he usually drives off in the morning with top down and cowboy hat on. During Christmas he entertained the other commuters with Christmas lights on the car and a furry plaid Santa's hat. He loves that car, 117,000 miles and all, and says it makes driving to work even fun. I am the office manager for a CPA firm in Escondido—trying to stay ahead of 17 accountants. I love to entertain, cook and travel. I also love to drive the Miata when allowed. I have driven most of the tough twisty roads that we all know and love. Someday Steve is going to get out of the way so I can drive on a run.

I consider it an honor to be the club treasurer. My "slave accountant" and I want to contribute to the SAN DIEGO MIATA CLUB'S success. We both enjoy all the wonderful people we have met and look forward to many more good times!
—LAURIE

To be included in our on-going series of Member Profiles, write a short (200–300 word) introduction and mail (or E-mail) it with a photo (your face should be large enough to be recognized) to the Club P.O. Box or give it to a board member at an event. — Your photo will be returned.

New Members!

The following are the new members since the last newsletter:

Brenda Breen

San Diego
1994 Black

Frank Cavanagh

San Diego
1994 Laguna Blue

Carol DiBello

Vista
1995 M (Merlot)

Valarie Goodkin

Oceanside
1995 Black

Bruce & Leigh Harmer

San Diego
1992 Black SE

Michael Hill

Long Beach
1990 White B

Kristine Krabbenhoft

San Diego
1992 White B

Doug Kvandal

La Mesa
1995 M (Merlot)

Mary P. Martel

Encinitas
1991 White B

Gale Mead

Oakland
1996 Montego Blue PEP

Wayne Plemons

San Diego
1993 Red B

Gerhard Röösl

Switzerland
1995 White

E. Mark Shusterman, M.D.

San Diego
1997 M (Marina Green)

Joel & Prima Zarza

Escondido
1997 Red

The following members have renewed since the last newsletter:

Robert T. Hyland

Sandy La Fond

Kathie & Lynn McClelland

Cathy & Jim Phillips

Richard & Sylvia Somerville

Tom & Dona Thompson





PHOTO: JACK MONACO

Firenze Frenzy—SDMC members enjoy the view from Mount Soledad

Rainer's Ramblings

One of the great things about our club is the camaraderie that exists. In the past month there have been three impromptu runs with good turnouts.

Not only did nine Miatas show up for Historic 101 Highway Dedication held on a Thursday afternoon in Oceanside, seven of them continued on the impromptu I led through some of my favorite back roads up here in North County.

A few days later ELLIOT SHEV put together an impromptu run with 15 cars which started in Escondido, then through some other North County roads to Lake Elsinore, over the Ortega Highway (a favorite for many Los Angeles-based automotive magazines), to Dana Point harbor for a picnic.

STEF AND TOM GOULD lead a group north to Fullerton through the Santa Ana Mountains to a vintage concours.

The club is also a great place to get valuable information on the care and repair of your Miata. There is a wealth of knowledge within our membership. The E-mail list and this newsletter is an excellent source of great information.

And, if you've been looking to get some accessories for your car, in the past we've been able to approach AUTOPOWER, a nationally recognized San Diego-based roll bar manufacturer, and we've been able to purchase rollbars at a substantial discount. And then DAVE TURNER MOTORSPORTS gave club members a phenomenal price for installation.

As I write this, I have arranged an order from K.G. WORKS in Japan for their visor lights and windshield washer nozzles. Since they ship via airfreight, individual orders are expensive. I ordered these products earlier this year

from them and the shipping amounted to almost 50% of the order. By combining our purchasing, this expense has been reduced considerably.

Our club members get discounts at many Mazda dealerships and other area automotive institutions. With our membership rapidly approaching 250 cars, these companies have recognized the buying power of the club. I have also once again been approached by a Mazda dealer who would like to offer a free club membership with every Miata sold. I think every San Diego county dealership could benefit from this sort of an association.

Many of you have had excellent service from local automotive companies, and you have even approached them about giving club members a discount— what a great idea! Please forward this information to me so I can coordinate it with the company as well as get it published in the newsletter.

And let's not forget the great deal we have on our own club products: decals, T-shirts, name badges, etched mugs, logo watches, and hat pins.

Our summer has unofficially started

and several members have stepped up to host runs and events. If you'd like to do something similar, but are worried about pulling it off, let me assure you that if you need any assistance with anything, there will always be someone to guide you. Come to think of it, this club has never had a bad event!

One of the treats I enjoy about the runs we have is that they usually involve a restaurant stop. MARIANNE and I have discovered many new eateries this way. Some folks are beginning to call this an eat and drive club, and I know there are a bunch of us who don't have a problem with that!

ROBERT "JTBOB" HOLLAND has been doing a phenomenal job with the club website (www.sandiegomiataclub.org). The menus, scrolling text, and even a quote by *South Park's* Cartman, put our club website in a league of its own. I happen to know that he's got some other neat tricks up his sleeve. JTBob is also always looking for photos and more articles...and so is our newsletter editor, ANTHONY "NEVADABOB" WILDE.

See you topless!

—Rainer

Second Annual MDA TeleThon

SDMC is planning their Second Annual MDA TeleThon Event, Monday, September 7th. We will be holding a raffle at the August Monthly Meeting with all the proceeds going to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association. This year the MDA TeleThon is being held at the Westin Hotel located at Horton Plaza. The SDMC will again kick off the event with a money drop at the outside fishbowl and handle the telephones for approximately one hour.

We will be providing more information on this event at the Monthly Meetings and in the newsletter. We need items donated for the August Raffle; if you know of any business willing to donate an item or items please contact Sue Hinkle at (760) 735-9456.

